

Minutes
College Park Aging-in-Place Task Force
March 11, 2015
City Hall

Attendees

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Blumenthal, Judy - Dist. 1	<u>X</u>	
Brennan, PJ - Dist. 2	<u>X</u>	
Dorsch, David - Dist. 3	<u>X</u>	
Ealley, Lisa - Dist. 1	<u>X</u>	
Ireton, Chuck - Dist. 2	<u>X</u>	
Kabir, Fazlul - Dist. 1	<u>X</u>	
Keer, David - Dist. 1	<u>X</u> , via telephone	
Mitchell, Denise - Dist. 4	<u>X</u>	
Nowlin, Darlene – Dist. 4		<u>X</u>
Sanders, Cory – Dist. 1	<u>X</u>	
Wojahn, Patrick - Dist. 1	<u>X</u>	

Also present:

Adele Ellis, homeowner, CORE Group
Bonnie McClellan, homeowner, CORE Group
Carol Nezzo, Grass Roots for Creative Village
Angie Burns, Staff CP Seniors Program
James Mulholland, UMD Student, Public Relations Director Phi Psi Fraternity
Peggy Higgins, Staff Liaison
Laura Salers, AIP Task Force Secretary

Call to Order

At 6:50 pm, Denise Mitchell called the meeting to order.

Agenda Items

Ad Hoc Aging In Place Group

Ms. Mitchell introduced Carol Nezzo, Adele Ellis and Bonnie McClellan. Ms. Nezzo began by explaining that they are an ad hoc committee called the Core Group. They are interested in working with seniors in College Park, providing resources and support to improve their quality of life.

The Core Group has scheduled a community forum on April 6, 2015 to meet with seniors to get an idea of their needs. They plan to have speakers, a question and answer session, and distribute resource information. The Core Group would like the AIP Task Force to attend and assist with a needs survey.

Mr. Wojahn added that the Core Group and Task Force share common goals and the Task Force could consider rescheduling their April 6 meeting, in order to support the forum.

Ms. Nezzo has collected samples of surveys to assist in creating a questionnaire, but they'd be happy to use the Task Force's Survey. She suggested Task Force members attend the forum to chat with community members and gain insight into their needs. Ms. McClellan added that the Core Group is requesting financial support from the Task Force to offset costs of refreshments and advertising yard signs.

Ms. Mitchell summarized the Core Groups needs as 1) use of the Task Force's survey, 2) financial support, and 3) attendance of the Task Force at the meeting.

Mr. Kabir suggested that the Core Group join the Task Force since there were positions available. Ms. McClellan suggested that one member join the Task Force to act as a bridge between the two groups and leave the other positions open for future interested citizens.

Ms. Ealley expressed concern that two groups in College Park focusing on aging in place and implementing surveys could confuse the residents.

Ms. McClellan said their group would advertise by placing lawn signs around the city and leaving fliers at the library, Starbucks and various businesses on Route 1. Civic Associations will receive electronic versions of the flier and it will be distributed via email through the city's list serve.

Mr. Keer added via telephone that he discourages the groups from having multiple and overlapping surveys. Ms. McClellan responded that the forum would be presenting more of a questionnaire, not a lengthy survey.

Peggy Higgins said she would like to distribute resource information to the attendees. Per Ms. Higgins, Angie Burns will send resource information to the Core Group.

Mr. Wojahn feels that the forum is an opportunity to delve deeper and get a sense of what the seniors need, and that the Task Force members could lead small discussion groups with the attendees. Ms. McClelland said that this is a good idea for a future meeting but they want to keep the first forum simple. She asked if the Task Force would be able to finance the yard sign purchase and passed around a mockup. Ms. Higgins suggested adding PM to the time on the sign and told her to proceed with placing the order.

Before the Core Group left the meeting, the Task Force thanked them for their enthusiasm, ideas and support of the aging population of College Park.

PHI PSI Fraternity

James Mulholland, Public Relations Director for Phi Psi Fraternity at the University of Maryland introduced himself to the Task Force. Mr. Mulholland announced that his Fraternity would like to work with College Park seniors by assisting with yard work, snow removal, spring cleaning or helping around the house. They are looking forward to working in partnership with the Task Force and serving the residents of College Park. His Fraternity will be making house calls, introducing themselves to residents and offering assistance. Mr. Mulholland left the meeting.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Ms. Higgins distributed copies of the minutes from the Task Forces 2/2/15 meeting. Ms. Mitchell asked the Task Force to review them. Newly appointed Task Force member David Dorsch made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Fazlul Kabir. Minutes were

approved. Ms. Ealley asked if the Draft Minutes could be distributed prior to the meetings for review. The Task Force agreed that this would save time. Ms. Higgins will email them and bring hard copies.

April 6 CORE GROUP FORUM DISCUSSION

Ms. Mitchell asked for comments from the Task Force regarding the Core Groups activities and requests. Ms. Blumenthal urged the Task Force to stay focused on their responsibilities and goals as set forth by the City Council. She suggested that instead of cancelling the next meeting, one representative attend the forum on behalf of the Task Force.

The consensus was that it would be best for the Core Group to work with the Task Force so that the mission and goals are consistent and unified. The community may already have the perception that the Core Group is acting on behalf of the AIP Task Force.

The Task Force appreciates the Core Groups energy and momentum and will support their forum with publicity and a mini-grant for expenses. Mr. Brennan volunteered to attend the forum as the Task Force representative. If the Task Force survey is finalized, it will be shared with the Core Group at the forum.

Ms. Ealley reminded the Task Force that the Core Group may only be focusing on their District and this is not in line with the goals of the Task Force. She asked Ms. Higgins if the city's senior bus would be taking residents to the forum. Ms. Higgins explained that the bus could be made available but it would require additional funding because a trip to the forum is not in the budget. The Task Force will suggest to the Core Group that the forum be repeated in other districts so that it is convenient for all residents.

After the discussion, Ms. Blumenthal made a motion that the Task Force would send one representative to the Forum on April 6th at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, and that the Task Force invite one member of the Core Group to join the Task Force and that the Task Force survey will be shared with the Core Group after it is finalized and approved. Ms. Ealley seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Ms. Mitchell will follow up with the City Council regarding a \$500 mini-grant for the Core Group. Ms. Higgins suggested she email the Core Group to inform them of the grant process.

AIP TASK FORCE DRAFT SURVEY DISCUSSION

Ms. Higgins passed out copies of the current draft of the AIP Task Force survey and it was reviewed and discussed. Since the last meeting, the Task Force members have made many suggestions and comments via email. Ms. Higgins suggested a sub-committee be formed to work on this, as it has become very time consuming and confusing to keep up with all the changes and suggestions.

Mr. Brennan offered to set up the draft survey on Google Docs and he would provide user support. Changes to the document are live and it's an efficient and helpful way to work on editing the document together.

Peggy mentioned that the Task Force needs to develop a plan for implementing the survey. Suggestions included the PHI PSI Fraternity taking it door to door and distributing it through College Park churches and seniors programs.

Mr. Ireton asked the Task Force to decide if the survey would be anonymous or allow the residents to provide their contact information. After a brief discussion, it was decided that the survey will allow for residents to provide their contact information if they'd like to receive additional information or services.

Ms. Mitchell will talk to the City about providing self-addressed stamped envelopes for residents to return the survey.

Adjournment

Mr. Kabir left the meeting at 8:25pm.

Ms. Mitchell asked Mr. Brennan to have the survey ready in Google Docs by the end of the week. She requested that the Task Force complete their review of the document, make edits and comments by the week after that. The Task Force will plan to finalize the survey at the April 6 meeting and make a plan to distribute it.

Ms. Mitchell asked formally for a volunteer to attend the Core Groups forum and Mr. Brennan volunteered.

It was noted that Ms. Nowlin notified the Task Force of her absence at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Dortch made a motion to adjourn at 8:30pm and it was seconded by Mr. Brennan.

Minutes prepared by Laura Salers